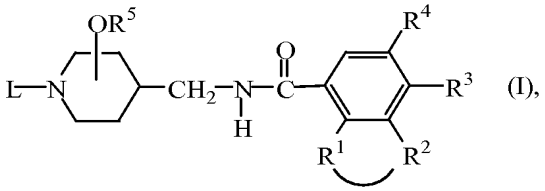
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A compound of formula (I)



(I),

a stereochemically isomeric form thereof, an *N*-oxide form thereof, or a pharmaceutically acceptable acid or base addition salt thereof, wherein

$-R^1-R^2-$ is a bivalent radical of formula

$-O-CH_2-O-$ (a-1),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-2),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-3),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-4),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-5),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-6),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$ (a-7),
$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$ (a-8),

wherein in said bivalent radicals optionally one or two hydrogen atoms on the same or a different carbon atom may be replaced by C_{1-6}alkyl or hydroxy,

R^3 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl or C_{1-6}alkyloxy;

R^4 is hydrogen, halo, C_{1-6}alkyl; C_{1-6}alkyl substituted with cyano, or C_{1-6}alkyloxy; C_{1-6}alkyloxy; cyano; amino or mono or di(C_{1-6}alkyl)amino;

R^5 is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl, and the $-OR^5$ radical is situated at the 3- or 4-position of the piperidine moiety;

L is a radical of formula

-Alk-R^6 (b-1),
-Alk-X-R^7 (b-2),
-Alk-Y-C(=O)-R^9 (b-3),
-Alk-C(=O)-NH-C(=O)-R^{11} (b-4),
-Alk-C(=O)-NH-SO_2-R^{11} (b-5),
-Alk-SO_2-NH-C(=O)-R^{11} (b-6),
-Alk-SO_2-NH-SO_2-R^{11} (b-7),

wherein each Alk is C_{1-12}alkanediyl; and

R^6 is aminosulfonyl optionally substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl, C_{3-6}cycloalkyl or phenyl;

R^7 is C_{1-6}alkylsulfonyl;

X is NR^8; said R^8 being C_{1-6}alkyl;

R^9 is C_{1-6}alkylsulfonylamino;

Y is a O, S, or NR^{10} wherein R^{10} is hydrogen or C_{1-6}alkyl; and

R^{11} is C_{1-6}alkyl or phenyl.

2. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein the -OR^5 radical is situated at the 3-position of the piperidine moiety having the trans configuration.

3. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 2 wherein the absolute configuration of said piperidine moiety is (3S, 4S).

4. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is a radical of formula (b-1) wherein Alk is C_{1-4}alkanediyl, and R^6 aminosulfonyl or aminosulfonyl substituted with C_{1-4}alkyl or phenyl.

5. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is a radical (b-5) wherein Alk is C_{1-4}alkanediyl, and R^{11} is C_{1-4}alkyl.

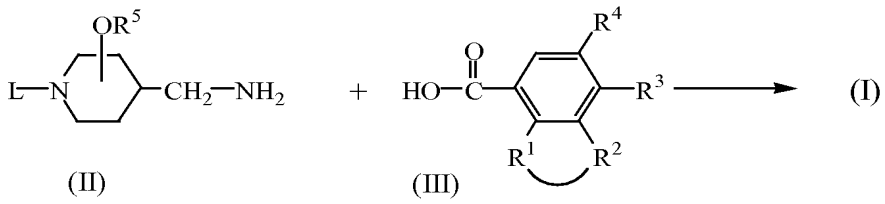
6. (Previously Presented) The compound as claimed in claim 1 wherein L is a radical (b-7) wherein Alk is C_{1-4}alkanediyl, and R^{11} is C_{1-4}alkyl.

7. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and a therapeutically active amount of a compound according to claim 1.

8. (Canceled)

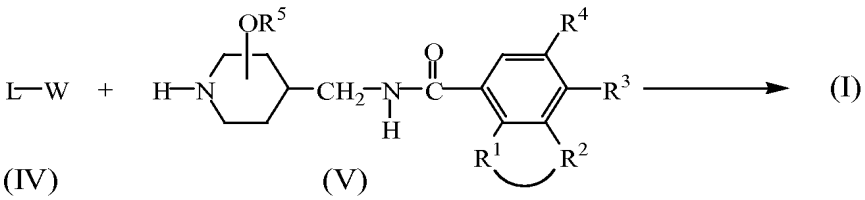
9. (Canceled)

10. (Original) A process for preparing a compound of formula (I) wherein
    a) an intermediate of formula (II) is reacted with an carboxylic acid derivative of formula (III) or a reactive functional derivative thereof;



(II) (III) (I)

b) an intermediate of formula (IV) is *N*-alkylated with an intermediate of formula (V), in a reaction-inert solvent and, optionally in the presence of a suitable base;



(IV) (V) (I)

wherein in the above reaction schemes the radicals -R^1-R^2-, R^3, R^4, R^5, and L are as defined in claim 1 and W is an appropriate leaving group;

c) or, compounds of formula (I) are converted into each other following art-known transformation reactions; or if desired; a compound of formula (I) is converted into a pharmaceutically acceptable acid addition salt, or conversely, an acid addition salt of a compound of formula (I) is converted into a free base form with alkali; and, if desired, preparing stereochemically isomeric forms thereof.

11. (Withdrawn) A method for the treatment of $5HT_4$ related disorders comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

12. (Withdrawn) A method for treating patients suffering from gastrointestinal conditions comprising administering to the patient an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.

13. (Withdrawn) A method for treating hypermotility, irritable bowel syndrome, constipation or diarrhea predominant IBS, pain and non-pain predominant IBS and bowel

hypersensitivity comprising administering to a patient in need thereof an effective amount of a compound according to claim 1.